

The RAYMOND RECORDER HISTORY OF RAYMOND

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B. J. WEAVER, Editor

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Editorial

OPEN LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA.

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Alberta Educational Council wishes to express the appreciation of its member organizations for the increased Provincial grants to education resulting from the action of the Legislature at its last session.

At the same time it is necessary to point out that the increased cost of operating schools during the current year are such that local boards are experiencing great difficulty in meeting them. It is not out of order to reiterate that local taxes have reached a dangerously high level, and that additional revenue from such sources cannot be expected. In many divisions the school bus has added heavy capital and operating expenses to an already heavy financial load and a huge building program, urgent though it is, has had to be postponed. It cannot wait much longer.

Today hundreds of schools are with out qualified teachers. It is essential that everything possible be done to right this situation. Among the factors to be considered in this respect are:

- (a) Salaries adequate to attract and hold the most capable people.
- (b) Substitution of an adequate provincial salary schedule for the more than 200 individual schedules at present in operation.
- (c) The establishment of a satisfactory pension scheme.
- (d) The provision of good teacherages where necessary.

All of these involve increased expenditures which it is impossible to meet from the proceeds of a direct tax on real property. We therefore ask you to support and to campaign for school grants which will meet at least 50% of the costs of elementary and secondary education.

The children of our province are our greatest asset. They must be educated to assume and discharge the responsibilities that will soon be theirs. We have no hesitation, therefore, in asking your assistance in

placing their education on a sound basis. You cannot afford to let these children down.

Yours very truly,

(Signed)

H. E. SPENCER.

E. C. ANSLEY

J. M. WHEATLEY

A. G. McALLA.

M. E. BUTTERWORTH

The need for the Government of the province to assume higher percentages of the cost of education is very strongly felt in Raymond this year.

In the recent requisition handed the Municipal and town authorities the School District are asking for an additional \$10,000 to cover operation of the Raymond schools for the 1948 year. Of course this has resulted in an increased mill rate for school purposes. Taxes are high enough now that people feel they are standing just about the limit. The cost of education has to be met regardless and the only way is through direct taxation of real property. The tax for school purposes in Raymond this year will be 30 mills whereas last year was 26. The only other source of relief from such heavy demands upon the tax payer is that the government be persuaded to shoulder at least 50 percent of the cost of education. The above quoted letter is a letter that the Alberta Educational Council wrote and along the same lines, the school board, the town council and the Municipal council have all contacted their M.L.A. stating the facts and urging that the government assume at least 50 percent of the cost of education. All civic organizations, councils and organized education units have written their M.L.A. asking support in the above request. All organizations in the Town of Raymond and all citizens should get behind the request and sign their name in a united effort to gain the governments consent of the proposal. If the voice of the people of Alberta is raised unanimously and loudly in support of larger government grants for school purposes no doubt action

GEORGE A. FAIRBANKS

Another well known pioneer family of 1902 was the George A. Fairbanks family.

Mr. and Mrs. Fairbanks were born in Payson, Utah, and their three first children, Harold, LaVern and Vilate were also born in Payson. They came to Raymond April 15, '02.

To Mr. and Mrs. Fairbanks ten children were born, five boys and five girls. Two of them died in childhood. Four of them, Walter, Sam, Georgia and Vilate, live in California while Harold, William, LaVern and Paul live in Raymond and are active progressive citizens. The Fairbanks brothers own and operate one of the most up to date stores in this locality of the south.

George Fairbanks was a very efficient teacher in the organizations and in priesthood quorums. November 16, 1904 he was sustained ward clerk of the Raymond Ward. He was a school teacher and was of a literary turn of mind and during his leisure hours he wrote a book which he called "The Progress of Man". He also left for his children a note book full of poems. Some on the serious side of life such as "The Creation" and some of them showing a keen sense of humor, for example: "The Ice Cream Cone"

This cone is a fake
Compared to a cake,
Yet designed for service
It really makes you nervous.
For it crackles and creaks
As you fumble it to eat,
And its insipid taste
Disappears with no haste
Were it not for the nugget
It holds at the top
You would become disgusted
And soon let it drop."

The old Fairbanks two story home in Payson still stands and is used for family reunions etc. It was built in 1853.

John B. Fairbanks, gifted Utah Artist is a brother of George and was Raymond's first photographer. His photograph gallery was just north of King Bros. store and south of J.O. Chances' grocery store. Many of the old photographs of early parades, of the old time buildings and of early pioneers were taken by this gifted man. How well we remember the beautiful paintings hanging on the walls of his shop.

Dr. Avard Fairbanks, internationally renowned sculptor, a son of John and Nephew of George, is at present teaching art in the University of Utah, coming to Salt Lake City from Ann Arbor, Mich. where he was associate professor of Fine Arts

would be forthcoming.

In the year ending December 31, 1945 total expenditures for that year were \$60,406.84, while in the year ending December 31, 1947 total expenditures amounted to \$82,100.38. This shows that the cost of education to the people of Raymond has increased \$21,693.46. With another \$10,000 increase this year the tax payer really carries a load. Real property is taxed to the limit and the educational standard all through the province is due for a serious setback unless relief is brought from some quarter. That source of relief is from the government and if the government can be persuaded to see the situation in the light of the people's point of view then we will again be able to step forward and keep our educational standards second to none.

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He is the father of eight sons. While he was yet a small boy he lived with his father here in Raymond. Roy, Avard's brother also lived here and played the Trombone in the Ural O'Brien orchestra in 1909.

Another brother of Avard and noted artist is J. Leo Fairbanks who is at the head of the Art Department at the Oregon State College.

Frank, another brother of George, lived here in pioneer days, his wife Minnie being one of the first, if not the first milliner in Raymond. Henry another brother was the first Reeve in the little village of Raymond.

He was the father of John, Charles, the former Mrs. Hawkins, Viola LaMar and Czar, the latter two still residents of Raymond. George A. Fairbanks passed away in 1943.

The following sketch was submitted by Mrs. Ann Fairbanks shortly before her last illness:

"We sold our possessions in Utah and came to Canada, arriving here about April 15, 1902 with our three children Harold, LaVern and Vilate. Mrs. Arthur Dahl travelled with us and it was rather a tedious journey as we came on the narrow gauge railroad, the Turkey Trail. I think they called it. But that was the only means of transportation at that time. Arthur Dahl met us at the station and took us to the home of Warren Depew where a lovely dinner was awaiting us and where we stayed overnight. It really did look beautiful here with the grass so green which covered the prairie, but I all that I was homesick and felt like I would like to have gone right back.

We went to live in the Henry Fairbanks home when we were settled.

It rained for two weeks and almost washed us out. After it had cleared up, one day the cattle came stampeding up the road and we all wondered what had happened, but it wasn't long before we found out, as in a short time our house was filled with mosquitoes. The cattle were really mad and I was almost mad too. Well, we set to work, bought a lot, and built our first house in Raymond. We planted a good garden which gave us wonderful results. We also planted our wheat and for three years our crop froze which was very discouraging. There were not many people here at that time, but the town soon grew. We busied ourselves in church activities. My husband George Fairbanks taught in the different organizations and I in Primary and Relief Society which we enjoyed very much. I feel we were real pioneers as there were a lot of difficulties to be overcome but I guess those are the things which bring out the best that is in us."

the back to within a few feet of the ground." Another page with pictures of an old rock well: "For more than 250 years this old well was the principal supply of water for the eight generations of the Fairbanks family who have occupied the old home".

While in conversation with Mrs. Fairbanks, it was interesting to discover that at one time she was assistant organist to John J. McClellan of Payson Utah, but who later became the famed Salt Lake Tabernacle organist, and when he went to Europe to study music Mrs. Fairbanks then Miss Ann Worsenroft, took his place as organist, a position she held for seven years. She was also organist in Relief Society under Margaret H. King. In 1916 she was sustained second counselor and February 12, 1918 first counselor to Margaret H. King which position she held until January 9, 1923. She was also counselor to Gertrude Hicks in the Primary Association. When she was 18 years of age she was president of the Y. L.M.L.A.

Mrs. Fairbanks passed away last November 4, 1947.

LaVern F. Anderson has in her possession a very interesting booklet with the caption thus:

"Ye Olde Fayerbanke House, Dedham, Mass., Built in 1636. This rambling picturesque old house is believed to be the oldest frame house now standing in the United States."

After a lapse of nearly three centuries it is still standing and owned by the lineal descendants of Jonathan Fayerbanke and is the mecca for thousands of tourists every summer from all over the world."

On one page with photograph of this giant old house, it reads "The entire length of the house including the wings, is seventy-five feet. The main or middle part has a pitch roof extending down over the lean-to at

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